



HOMICIDES TOP 200

3 women shot to death in probable home invasion

BY KIM BELL AND JESSE BOGAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • St. Louis’ grim homicide tally pushed to a 21-year high early Friday morning, when three women were shot to death in an apparent home invasion on the city’s north side.

The victims, all women in their 20s, were killed after 3 a.m. in the 4200 block of John Avenue.

The dead were identified as Reeba M. Moore, 25, and Dominique D. Lewis, 24, both of the 4200 block of John, and Chanice R. White, 24, of the 2000 block of East Humes Lane.

The women had been inside a two-family brick flat at 4240 John Avenue when attackers burst in,

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LAURIE SKRIVAN • lskrivan@post-dispatch.com
A car with a damaged window is parked Friday in front of an apartment home in the 4200 block of John Avenue in St. Louis where three women were fatally shot in an apparent home invasion.

Majority of 2017 killings are unsolved shootings

BY KIM BELL
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • Daikel Lamont Fletcher was the first to be slain in St. Louis this year, his body found in a backyard in the Jeff-Vander-Lou neighborhood, his car stolen.

Fletcher was gunned down on the fourth day of the new year. Nearly 12 months later, three women trying to escape attackers in a home invasion were shot dead in a car early Friday.

That triple murder pushed the annual homicide count to 203, the most the city has seen in a single year since 1995, when there were 204 victims. (The city’s population in 1995 was about 50,000 more

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ZOO ANIMALS GET THEIR GREENS IN ALL SEASONS



PHOTO BY JERRY NAUNHEIM JR.
Little Joe, a western lowland gorilla, dines on leafy tree branches called “browse” which was donated to the St. Louis Zoo by Ameren from trees it cut to protect power lines.

BY MIKE FAULK
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Eating healthy over the winter holidays isn’t a problem only for people. Just ask Bakari the gorilla.

One of four gorillas at the St. Louis Zoo, young Bakari gets to his feet when he sees branches from white ash trees fed through a door by his keepers. They’re no different from the discarded brush clippings that fill up yard bins all over town, but for animals it’s a rich source of

Healthy eating for zoo animals takes a lot of improvising and help from the public

fiber, vitamins and protein.

One after the other, he fits leafy limbs in his mouth and pulls them out bare, casting them aside like old chicken bones. But he’s not done: Bakari greedily snags branches his inattentive habitat mates were saving for later.

“They are geared to eat lots and lots of leaves,” Heidi Hellmuth, the zoo’s curator of primates, said.

The twice-weekly feedings with

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Trump signs \$1.5 trillion tax bill into law

Impromptu event celebrates major achievement

BY LAURIE KELLMAN AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON • In the end, Donald Trump’s top achievement as president — a \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul — was finalized in a “rush job” of an affair. And that was OK with him.

None of the members of Congress who muscled through the biggest tax overhaul in 30 years were in the

Oval Office on Friday as Trump signed the measure into law. That’s because the president was not pleased with news coverage that morning questioning whether he would get the bill signed before Christmas. So he ordered up a spur-of-the-moment signing event at which he ticked through what he described as the “tremendous” accomplishments of his first year in office.

“This is the capper,” Trump said of the tax package, using his last moments of the year in the White House to sign the bill before flying to Florida

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CHURCH EMBRACES THE SAD, TROUBLED ‘Hollow’ for the holidays



DAVID CARSON • dcarson@post-dispatch.com
Larry Gregory and Gene Dobbs Bradford (not shown) practice on Thursday the music they’ll play for a Christmas Eve service.

BY DOUG MOORE
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The Rev. Mike Angell knows not everyone looks forward to the holidays.

As a priest in University City, he hears the stories of struggle, heartache and loss. Folks estranged from or rejected by their families after battles with alcohol or because of sexual orientation. A well-intentioned “Merry

Christmas” can release a flood of memories that some people want to keep tucked away, especially during the holidays.

On Sunday morning, Angell is setting aside a traditional service for one featuring blues music. Songs that don’t push for happiness, that understand the pain.

“Churches are the primary culprits for the

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TODAY

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TOMORROW

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